



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GRETHER
DIRECTOR

January 26, 2018

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Tribal Leaders:

It has been brought to the attention of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that a sign was posted at the Back Forty public hearing on January 23, 2018, that did not represent the spirit of the gathering, nor did it provide a space where all people felt respected. Please be advised that the MDEQ DID NOT post the signage in question. This sign was brought to law enforcement attention, it was addressed with the responsible party, and it was removed. We have seen that some misinformation has been spreading on social media that the MDEQ intentionally posted this sign and message to be disrespectful to the Indigenous Peoples that were expected to attend the meeting. The MDEQ works to provide a safe and respectful place for all to share their views, and we expressly apologize that this situation happened at the building where we were holding a public hearing.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Katie Kruse, Environmental Justice and Tribal Liaison, MDEQ, at krusek2@michigan.gov or 517-249-0906.

Sincerely,

C. Heidi Grether
Director
517-284-6700

cc: Mr. David Nyberg, Governor's Office
Ms. Susan Leeming, External Relations Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Michael McClellan, Environmental Deputy Director, MDEQ
Ms. Katie Kruse, MDEQ